

REMARKS

Amendment to the Claims

In this paper, independent claim 8 (process claim) has been amended to further clarify the features of the present invention. The instant amendment made herein to the claims does not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed.

Response to Restriction Requirement

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-7, drawn to a liquid dispenser; and

Group II, claims 8-11, drawn to a method for pipetting a sample.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-7.

The requirement is traversed. It is submitted (1) there are overlapping technical features between the two groups of claims and (2) there would be no undue burden on the Examiner to examine both groups of claims. For instance, independent claim 1 (product claim) recites that "a secondary means for causing a speeded up emptying movement of the plunger" (emphasis added), while currently amended independent claim 8 (method claim) recites that "this speeded up removal movement is achieved by secondary means" and "... is performed faster ..." (emphases added). Thus, there are overlapping technical features between the two groups of claims. Applicants respectfully request that these claims be rejoined.

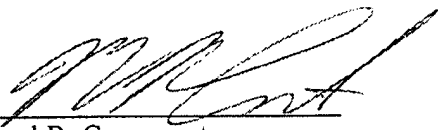
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Toyohiko Konno, Registration No L0053 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☒ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☒ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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